

## **Battalion Training and Operations**

Your “Steel Spike” soldiers are in the midst of an aggressive four week training program which kicked off last week. After allowing three days for in-processing, getting over the jet lag and acclimatization, we began the first of several major training events. These events will include rifle and machine gun ranges designed to produce expert shooters through live fire exercises. Additionally, we are having classes on local culture, combat operations, intelligence and staff operations, and construction. Your Soldiers are spending longer than normal in Kuwait in order to make up training that we missed due to the two hurricanes and also to allow us to improve cohesion among units and confidence in leadership since we experienced such a large turn-over just prior to deployment. I’ll continue using this column to keep you updated on the types of missions your Soldiers are conducting and how they are progressing. Until next time, rest assured we’ll give our all to ensure that we enter Iraq in the highest possible state of readiness and confidence.

**STEEL SPIKE!**  
MAJ Daren Payne



Entry Control Point Training Camp in Kuwait  
(Photo by Temkin, OCT 2005)